

A  
 REVIEW  
 OF THE  
 STATE  
 OF THE  
 BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, January 8. 17c8.

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**I** Will not determine, with what Principle a new Notion is started in Print, of our Fighting *France* at Sea, being *the chief Part of our Business*; I know, those People, that would not have us beat *France* at all, mightily fall in with such a Notion; I hope, the Author, I am talking to, is only mistaken, and not knowingly misleading others, and therefore I shall proceed with due Respect. The Subject, advanc'd by him, is;

*That ruining the Naval Power of France, is the only Way to humble him.*

I say, it may be a Help, but it is far from being the *only Way*. 1. Because you cannot reduce him by it; if it were done, it is *singlely* not at all the Way to humble him; it may help, but by Land is the main Stroke to be struck; this first Head I spoke to in my last. I proceed,

2. It is not *the only Way* to humble him, for whenever you attempt him by Sea, and neglect him by Land, he is so superiour to all the Confederates, he will fully make himself Amends on them, and in spite of all our Naval Efforts compleat the Destruction of *Europe's* Liberties; I think, I need not go far for Examples——Suppose, *France* had not had one Ship at Sea, or one Ship to put to Sea, no Privateers to infest our Trade, and no Convoys to guard her own; pray, Sir, what would that have contributed to save the Empire, when the Duke of Marlborough march'd into *Bohemia*? Could our victorious Navy have defended *Vienna*, or secur'd the Imperial Crown, when the Duke of *Bohemia* would in two Months have made himself Emperor, if he had pleas'd. Again, what could our Fleet have done more

more than it did, in the Affair of *Savoy*, and what could that signify to the Relief of *Turin*? You had a Fleet in the *Levant* Seas, the *French* had not a Ship at Sea, at least not a Squadron, you were absolute Masters at Sea, and yet the City of *Turin* had been lost, and the Duke of *Savoy* been ruin'd for all your Navy, if Prince *Eugene* had not march'd up to their Teeth, and drove the *French* Army out of their Entrenchments.

3. To say, the only Way to humble *France* is to ruin his Naval Power, is to confute the other Part, (*viz.*) That the War should be prosecuted chiefly by Sea, for you can never ruin his Naval Power but by Land; you had never ruin'd the Ships at *Vigo*, and taken the Booty there, tho' they were 60 Sail to 22, but for the Land-Forces that beat them from their Batteries; you had ruin'd the Naval Power of *France* at *Thoulon*, had your Land-Forces been sufficient, but that failing, the Fleet was oblig'd to give it over, so that this War must be chiefly carry'd on by Land; the Navy is to concur on all Occasions, and ought to be ready for that Concurrence, but the Sum of the Matter is by Land.

I come now to remove two fortifying Observations of this Author. 1. That King *William* got nothing, or *Britain* got nothing by the late War. 2. The Battles of *Hockstet* and *Ramellies* have been far from ruining the *French*.

For the *First*, I refer the Author to the Articles of the Peace of *Ryswick*, and there let him see, whether we got nothing by that War; I presume, he is not unacquainted with the Conditions: If he means by *Britain* getting, what we got in Territory, tho' I cannot think, he will fly to so mean a Shift: I answer, we got all we fought for, we got a good Barrier in *Flanders*, and a good Peace, had it continued, and its Non-Continuance cannot be consider'd in this Dispute; but if he means, as I suppose he would be understood, what the Confederates gain'd, let him look back to the Frontiers, where he will see all the strong Towns in *Flanders* restored, *Mons*, *Charleroy*, *Arth*, *Oudenard*, *Courtray* demolished, the *Charlany* of *Tour- nay*, the whole Province, and the impregna-

ble City of *Luxemburg* gain'd, *Dinant* demolished, and all restored in *Flanders*, that could be demanded, on the *Moselle*; *Trèves* surrendred, *Mont-Royal* demolished, all *Lorraine*, and the Country between the *Saar* and the *Moselle* deliver'd, the mighty Fortresses of *Friburg*, *Brisac* and *Fort Kief*, all the *Brigau*, the *Hontsruck*, the black Forest, and the Forest-Towns all surrendred, with all *Savoy* and *Piedmont* parted with before. I might enumerate a Multitude of other things, which *France*, being humbled by this War, disgorged for a Peace; and all this by that War, which King *William* is upbraided for bringing to no Conclusion.

Come we now to the Battles of *Hockstet* and *Ramellies*, which this Gentleman says, were far from humbling *France*, yet we find, they had various Effects; they sav'd the Emperor, they turn'd the whole Scale of *Europe*, they brought *France* to make great Offers of Peace, and to sue for it; nay, they brought him to proclaim Days of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer, to deprecate the Judgments of GOD, and the Ruin, which they justly fear'd, was at their Doors; and had it not pleas'd GOD, either to hear their Prayers, or our Sins, I shall not say which; but had we been bless'd with one Victory more, *viz.* That of *Thoulon* this last Year, *France* had been ruin'd entirely, and that whether his Naval Power had been destroy'd or no; for it had been but one Part of his Navy, that had fallen into our Hands.

To sum up all, I do allow, that to ruin the Naval Power of *France*, is of very great Consequence; but that it is the only Way to humble *France*, or the chief Thing to be heeded in it, cannot be true. And consequently the Reflection made on the Conduct of his late Majesty cannot be just.

I think, I need say little to the 3d Head, *viz.* proving the contrary; the Extremities, the late Successes of the Army reduc'd the House of *Bourbon* to, are evident Testimonies of the contrary: How King *Philip* had left *Madrid*, and was on the Point to have abandon'd all *Spain*; how the King of *France* was brought on his Knees to GOD Almighty to save him from the threatening Descents



Descents of the Confederates, who look'd on his Power so broken, that they refused to treat with him of Peace, which he in a plain Manner solicited for—All the Navies in the World, had the whole Naval Strength of Europe been against him, and He without a Ship, could not have done this.

This War must be push'd at Land, the Duke of Savoy cannot be assisted by Sea, King Charles III. must have good Armies to help him, a Fleet will never drive King Philip again from Madrid; it must be an Army must defend the Frontiers of Portugal, an Army must prevent the Marechal De Villars from making a second Eruption into Germany, and it must be an Army must keep the French from regaining the open Cities of Flanders, and insulting the Dutch at their own Doors; what these Gentlemen mean, who tell us, the War with France must be carry'd on chiefly by Sea, I will not determine, let them speak for themselves: This, I know, that the Enemies of our present War with France readily chime in with the Complaint, that we push our Affairs in foreign Countries, and neglect the Navy; but their Reason is particular, because they would have us turn our Force, where we can do the French least Harm.

If these Gentlemen mean well, as I hope they do, and if they would say, we should with more Application pursue our Advantages at Sea, as what is the only Way to intercept the Current, and stop the Stices of Money, which from the West-Indies supply both France and Spain, and make them able to support this War, which otherwise they would find great Difficulty to do; if

this be their Meaning, I join with them heartily.

If they say, we should establish a Stationary Guard for our Home Commerce, and to secure the going out and coming in of our Ships; that Convoys, Cruisers and Squadrons be better regulated, both for our Defence, and the punctual Supply of our Affairs abroad, this I also join in.

But when they come to state an Emulation between the Sea and the Land Service, and this must be encreased, and that slackned, setting them one against the other; as it is contrary to the concerted Measures of all our Allies, contrary to the Judgment of all Nations, so it is contrary to the Nature of the thing, and the Reason of it too, which directs our Force to be most pointed, where the Enemy is strongest; as when the Town is on Fire, the Engines direct their Spouts chiefly, where the Flame is most impetuous, and it would be wasting Water, Hands and Time, to play most where the Fire was weakest, and would leave the main Force of the Fire uninterrupted, till it got such a Head, as all the Engines at last could not quench.

Thus, I think, I have stated the Case as inoffensively as I can; he that will be ill natur'd on such a Sort of Treatment as this, will want Discretion as well as Manners, neither of which I hope, I have now to deal with: I hope, the Gentleman will think it but Justice to make the Memory of King William Amends by an ingenuous Acknowledgment of his ill Usage to him, and for the rest we shall soon understand, or explain Things to Satisfaction.

## MISCELLANEA.

**W**ELL, Gentlemen, what say you now to my Queries in the last *Miscellanea* about our Colonies? One tells me, they are crabbed, ill-natur'd Questions; I wish, the Publick would be pleas'd to think them worth answering, I mean to themselves; and that the Parliament would be pleas'd to take it into Consideration, how to strength-

en, encrease and encourage our Colonies, that if ever that Side of the World comes to be in wiser Management than it has been; and a King should arise that knows not Joseph, we may not be made Bonds-men there to the Egyptians; and give me Leave to say, 100000 Men in Flanders will be cheaper maintain'd, than such a Force to